

REMARKS

The Examiner's recognition of Applicants' invention by the allowance of claims 1-17 and the indication of allowable subject matter for claims 19 and 20 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claim 18 is amended to call out that the surface gold concentration is about 8 wt% to about 20 wt%, based upon the total weight of the platinum-gold alloy at the surface, a feature originally recited in claims 19, now cancelled. The dependency of claim 20 is corrected following cancellation of an intervening claim.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 103

Claims 18 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,413,397, issued to Hasei et al. in 2002, in view of United States Patent Application No. US 2002/0011410, by Inoue et al., and United States Patent Application No. US 2002/0108871, by Wang et al.

Claim 18 is amended to recite that the surface gold concentration of the first electrode is about 8 wt% to about 20 wt%, a feature acknowledged in the Office Action as not taught or suggested by the references. Claim 21 is dependent upon claim 18, and so also not taught or suggested by the references.

In view of the amendment, it is believed that the rejection is moot. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed.

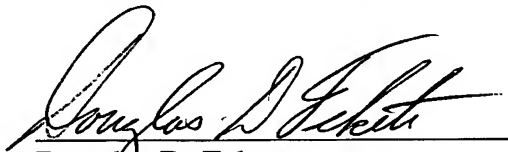
Conclusion

Claim 20 was objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim. In view of the amendments and remarks herein, it is believed that the base claim is now allowable. Accordingly, it is requested that the objection be withdrawn, and that all claims be allowed.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas D. Fekete", is written over a horizontal line.

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